

A TRUCE IN PLATT'S WAR.

Anti-Machine Men Consider It an Evidence of the Boss's Weakness.

AFRAID TO FIGHT, THEY SAY

Reform Bills Will Be "Held Up," but Strong Has Said He Doesn't Care.

57 VOTES PLEDGED THE MAYOR.

Any Attempt at Arbitrary Legislation Will Be Vigorously Opposed.

(Special to The Evening World.)

ALBANY, Feb. 21.—Much amusement was caused this morning when members of the Legislature read in the New York morning papers that Boss Platt had returned to Madison Square very much gratified with the result of his Albany excursion.

He did not appear to be very much gratified when he left here yesterday afternoon, and his lieutenants in the Senate and Assembly admitted this morning that the situation had not been materially changed by his visit. They admit that both sides have tacitly agreed to a truce which, considering the source of the admission, is equivalent to a confession that the Boss was afraid to fight.

The anti-Platt men declare they are ready to fight whenever he sounds the call to arms, but that he is afraid to do so.

It is generally admitted by Platt's supporters that all the reform bills favored by Mayor Strong will be "held up" until he comes to terms. This declaration of war, however, is offset by the statement of one of the members of the Assembly declared on Monday that he did not care what Platt did about anything.

The Mayor, according to "The Evening World's" informant, said that Platt would have to answer to the people for his interference with public and official business, and not the Mayor of New York.

The anti-Platt men claim to be gaining strength, and it was said by them this morning that they have fifty-seven votes already pledged to oppose any arbitrary legislation that Platt may encourage in his fight on the Albany front.

Assemblyman Adler, of New York, who refused to sign the memorial to Mayor Strong on Tuesday, was reported to have flopped this morning over to the side of the reformers, but he denied the report.

Leon Fain, a Republican lobbyist, was the most conspicuous man in the Senate to-day, openly engaged in lobbying in the interest of his boss.

It is learned on excellent authority that Platt will not be a chief lieutenant until the Mayor has disposed of all of the patronage at his command. In the mean time the boss is conducting a fight.

LEVI P. ADVISES T. C. P.

Word Passed Among the G. O. P. to Be Very Diplomatic.

Since Platt has returned from Albany word has been passed among the regulars of the G. O. P. to be diplomatic rather than aggressive, and talk about rainbows instead of the storm that Mayor Strong has raised.

This policy of peace is to be inaugurated at to-morrow's meeting of the Republican County Committee, when Mr. Platt's man Lauterbach will, it is stated, select for the important Committee on Organization such prominent Brookfield men as Cornelius N. Bliss, Col. E. V. Cruger, John R. Van Vorster, Col. Robert O. Johnson, A. R. Page and Samuel G. Trout.

The Committee consists of thirteen, however, and it is safe to guess that the Toga statesman will keep a string on the majority.

It is said to have been Gov. Morton's advice to halt in the inclination of his lieutenants to go in and try to slaughter the reform Mayor.

Gov. Morton pointed out that Col. Strong would be a hard man to slaughter, but that if he found that Platt was not disposed to seek revenge he might give a few of the many fat plums still in his possession to the ring contingent.

The Governor's advice, in short, was for Platt to play possum, and the Toga chief is busy to-day studying up the new role.

There were rumors, however, that Col. Strong's Republican friends are not disposed to accept peace in any form.

One of the many fat plums still in his possession is the County Committee, which is to be reorganized at to-morrow's meeting of the County Committee.

Col. Strong's object, it is stated, is to secure a solid New York delegation for his Ohio friend, Major McKinley, and thus knock out Gov. Morton's kind of a man to make deals to further the ambition of any one.

When Chairman Lauterbach was seen this morning he refused to say anything for publication. Ex-Senator Platt was equally uncommunicative.

It is understood that Mr. Lauterbach will name the following chairmen of important committees:

Organization, James W. Doremus, Twenty-sixth Street, Election Officer, Abraham Gruber, Twenty-third District, Abuses and Grievances, ex-Judge Ernest Smith, Appeals, Charles H. Page, Nineteenth District.

All these men except Doremus and Page are known as Platt men. Neither

Doremus nor Page has taken prominent part in the fight. The appointments show that Chairman Lauterbach is endeavoring to pacify the Brookfield people, but in making up the committees each are left in the lurch.

Benjamin F. Tracy, who was at Albany to see Gov. Morton while Platt was there, refused to discuss his interview with the Governor. He said that there were no new developments.

Albany, Feb. 21.—Four hundred "dry" advocates gathered in the Assembly Chamber this afternoon to protest against the passage of the Side Door Bill.

The bill, which would allow the Mayor to appoint a committee to investigate the conduct of the Mayor's office, was introduced by Mr. Strong.

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